



# Inclusive - a newsletter for the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society

**November 2012**

## **Great Show at Second IBC Challenge By Sandy Hannum**

I hope you were at Memphis on Main on Saturday October 20 to experience the Second Prairie Crossroads Blues Society IBC Challenge because it was a not-to-be-missed event! Six fabulous bands competed for the honor of going to the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, TN in February, representing PCBS.

The venue was packed from beginning to end, although the crowd changed throughout the event. Some folks came from far away, mainly to cheer for their particular favorite band. Some were there for the entire show. To paraphrase good friend of the blues James "Skyy Dobro" Walker, "where else but an IBC can you go and hear six terrific bands in one evening?"

Rich Cibelli did a great job as MC for the evening, keeping everyone informed and up to speed. Our time-keeper, Kathi Cullopp kept all the bands to their time limits with no problems, and also snapped photos. Tasty food was available throughout the afternoon and evening from Holy Smoke Barbecue who set up a table next to the entrance. This was much appreciated by all of us who were there for the duration!! The five judges were: Joe Asselin, who plays guitar with the Sugar Prophets, formerly played harp with Kilborn Alley and is a veteran of four Memphis IBC competitions; Diane Cushing, who is an avid supporter of blues music and a member of several blues societies; Roger Meredith, who is President of the Decatur Blues Society; Mike Rapier, who is the leader of Tombstone Bullett, a 2010 IBC semifinalist in Memphis; and Sam Reese, a Professor Emeritus from the U of I Music Department.

First up was a blues-rock group from Acacia Fraternity at U of I called The Ars Nova that has been together for a year. Their music had a heavy rock beat, and some excellent guitar work. The songs they played all appeared to be originals. These guys obviously had a huge group of enthusiastic friends in the audience, which made for a nice energetic opener.



**The Ars Nova**

Photo courtesy of Zack Widup

Second to play were the Delta Kings. Originally founded in 1992, they have been through some variations and currently have a terrific line-up of first class experienced blues musicians. They are Kenny McNichols on guitar and vocals, Matt Stewart on slide guitar, Terry Hawkins on drums, and Bill Humphrey on bass. They really got a nice blues groove going on "Let Your Hair Down." Great blues all around.

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**The Delta Kings**

Photo courtesy of Zack Widup

Third was a brand new group called the James Jones Trio which was a delightful surprise. All three musicians are very talented. James Jones took the time to introduce the band members, and engaged the audience. The band consists of James Jones on guitar and vocals, Aaron Bouslog on drums, and Mitchell Killough on bass. They performed a variety of songs with a whole range of blues rhythms. This group is interesting to watch as well as hear. They move around quite a bit on the stage, and have a fresh young take on the blues. The crowd obviously loved them.



**The James Jones Trio**

Photo courtesy of Zack Widup

Fourth up was Benny Jenkins Bloodline, another Jenkins band which includes Benny's brother Don on drums, and son Dylan on guitar. Remarkably, their standup bass player had taken ill just before the IBC

and had to back out. Undeterred, Benny found a great replacement in Jeffrey Gibbens from Hillbilly Jones. Jeffrey fit right in, and appeared to be having the time of his life, particularly on the lively jump blues song "Step Back." Of course, Benny is a real character too. Watching this performance was a hoot!



**Benny Jenkins Bloodline**

Photo courtesy of Zack Widup

Fifth to play was the Susan Williams Band. She packed her set with passion from beginning to end, both singing and playing bass. She has a rich blues voice reminiscent of Bonnie Raitt. The set include some original songs that she had written. With Susan on bass and vocals, Todd Kester on guitar and vocals, Chuck Dragoo on Keyboard, and Chuck Bialeschki on drums, they played right down to the last second of their time. This band plays good solid blues delivered with feeling!



**The Susan Williams Band**

Photo courtesy of Zack Widup

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The final band to perform was Jerry Lee and The Juju Kings. Okay, this guy really has a stage presence and charisma! He kind of takes over the room and gets everybody into it. The band consists of Jerry Lee Gingery on guitar or bass, Eddie Narakas on guitar/vocals, Rich Westrick on keyboard, and Rob Aguillera on drums. This group is exciting to watch. I loved "Sold My Soul to the Devil." Jerry took the time to introduce the band members more than once, and also interacted with the audience – a true performer.



**Jerry Lee & The Juju Kings – Winners of IBC**

Photo courtesy of Zack Widup

The excitement kept mounting throughout the evening because every single band had turned out a great performance. Each band was unique, but there were no duds. Apparently, the results did come in very close.

Meanwhile, while the results were being tallied up the audience was treated to the kick-ass sound of Matthew Curry and the Fury, Memphis on Main's headliner band for the evening. Talk about high energy – wow!

Soon the MC announced that we had a winner! Rich explained that if the winner became unable to go to Memphis, the second place finisher would represent PCBS in the International Blues Challenge. The second place band was The James Jones Trio! Not bad at all for a brand new entity. We could tell that they were popular with the crowd at Memphis on Main.

And – drum roll – the winner of the IBC was **Jerry Lee and the Juju Kings!** Again, the crowd went wild with the announcement. I am proud that they will be representing us in Memphis.

What a great IBC this was. Many thanks to Bob Paleczny for making all the arrangements!! Thanks to all the volunteers who worked the doors, front and back, and made it all go so smoothly.

Now we can look forward to another big party to help send these guys off to Memphis in style!

### **Pass the Biscuits, It's King Biscuit Time** **By Bob Paleczny**

Helena, Arkansas bills itself as The Main Street of the Blues, each year in early October, Cherry Street certainly once again becomes the Main Street of the Blues. At one time Helena was a thriving community on the Mississippi River with the cotton industry, timber and lumber mills, and factories employing thousands of workers. After World War II, Helena had a population of about 25,000 residents. It boasted two main streets, Cherry Street the white main street, and Walnut Street the black main street, one block to the west. Residents recall the heyday when you could go downtown and enjoy the movie theaters, skating rinks and bowling alleys, and stores were packed with shoppers on a Saturday night.

With the mechanization of the agricultural fields, the decline of the timber industry and labor troubles at Mohawk Rubber Company, Helena lost thousands of jobs. Today you see vacant storefronts, abandoned factories and dilapidated homes. You'll actually see trees growing up in the middle of some of the vacant buildings. The decline started in the '60's and continued until recently. By 2000 the combined cities of Helena-West Helena had a population of 14,000 – about half its former size.

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**Helena, Arkansas**

Photo courtesy of Bob Paleczny

Yet each October during the King Biscuit Festival the city of Helena-West Helena returns to its glory days. At least a four block segment of Cherry Street comes alive with blues, food and fans. Helena has a long history in the blues. Back on November 21 of 1941 radio station KFFA began broadcasting the "King Biscuit Time" radio program. Still on the air today, it's the longest running daily American radio broadcast in history. It was started at the request of Sonny Boy Williamson II, and named after the sponsor and local flour company, King Biscuit Flour. Sonny Boy would perform live on the air and would insert commercials for King Biscuit Flour and Sonny Boy Meal. Its 12:15 time slot was chosen to match the lunch break of African-American workers in the Delta. Besides Sonny Boy, other original band members were Robert Lockwood Jr., Pinetop Perkins and James Peck Curtis. Since 1951 the show has been hosted by "Sunshine" Sonny Payne. The show reached throughout the Delta region and was an inspiration to blues greats such as Muddy Waters, B.B. King, Robert Nighthawk, James Cotton and Ike Turner. Levon Helm the drummer for The Band who was raised in nearby Turkey Scratch, Arkansas, also credits the show for inspiring him.

The King Biscuit Festival began in 1986 and is hosted by the Sonny Boy Blues Society. The fest was started as a way to help revive Helena and reconnect it with its blues roots. Today the festival is a three-day event with multiple stages. The main stage is a permanent structure on Cherry Street facing the

Mississippi River levee which forms a natural amphitheater. There are also several temporary stages set up a few blocks up Cherry Street. This year's headliners were Bobby Rush, Taj Mahal and Bonnie Raitt. However it's the many other artists performing on the side stages and the buskers playing up and down Cherry Street that make the festival exceptional. Some of the other artists who performed at this year's fest were, Ruthie Foster, Anson Funderburgh, Vasti Jackson, Kenny Neal, Donna Herula, Roy Rogers, Deak Harp, Carl Weathersby, Billy Branch, Zakiya Hooker (John Lee's daughter), EB Davis, James Cotton and Matthew Curry. You'll see some of the true Delta legends of the blues and some of the best unknown soon-to-be stars of the blues playing a few feet away from each other.

If you ever want to experience the blues at its roots, take a trip to the Delta region and attend the King Biscuit Festival. You can feel the blues in the soil, in the air and in the people. Besides the terrific blues artists you'll see, it's the friendliness of the residents and the blues fans that make it so enjoyable.

### **Looking Forward By Bob Paleczny**

These are fun and exciting times for Prairie Crossroads Blues Society. We hosted our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual IBC Challenge Oct. 20 and are proud to have a great band and group of guys, Jerry Lee and the Juju Kings from Dwight, Illinois, as our representative to the Blues Foundation's 2013 International Blues Challenge. We want to send another thanks out to all the bands, judges, sponsors and especially all the fans that came out and made it such a great event. We're looking forward to having a fundraiser for Jerry Lee and the Juju Kings in January to help them on their way to Memphis and the competition on Historic Beale Street.

An event that's right around the corner is the CU Folk & Roots Festival, <http://folkandroots.org/>. The fest will take place Friday and Saturday November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> throughout downtown Urbana. Once again this year PCBS is helping to sponsor a blues night, Saturday evening at The Iron Post. The festival (Continued on next page)

brings together a wide array of local and national talent in a series of workshops and performances. Local favorites Billy Galt and Jeff Kerr, Kevin Elliott, Michael Powers, The Curses and David Howie will all be performing. Some of the awesome artists from around the country performing at the festival are Devil in a Woodpile, Robbie Fulks and Tequila Mockingbird Orchestra. The Saturday evening show at The Iron Post has a superb lineup kicked off by local legend Deak Harp, followed by The Old Time Players, then the Vine Street Syncopators and the evening's headliners Blind Boy Paxton with Brandon Bailey. There will be a late night jam hosted by Dustin Norder to wrap things up. This fest always has a great mix of roots, Americana, early jazz and old time music with something to please everyone. Check the complete schedule on their website. They're always looking for volunteers to help them pull this all together, so if you have some free time, think about volunteering.

Prairie Crossroads is also working on bringing in some regional and national touring blues acts. We'll have James Armstrong headlining a show Friday November 30<sup>th</sup> at Memphis on Main. James grew up in Southern California and spent quality time with one of his major influences, Albert Collins. He recently moved to Springfield, Illinois, and PCBS is working on bringing James in for his Champaign-Urbana debut. His most recent CD "Blues at the Border" on Catfood Records manages to honor the sound of traditional blues while combining it with a contemporary grit. In December, on Friday the 21<sup>st</sup>, we're planning on bringing Johnny Rawls to the area. Johnny has been nominated for 9 Blues Music Awards and in 2010 he won the BMA for The Best Soul Blues Album for his CD "Ace of Spades".

We're also planning some more educational events for school children throughout the area. This will follow up on our highly successful after school program last spring at Wiley School in Urbana. In the works is a series of workshops at local libraries to have local musicians teach grade school kids blues history, basic music skills and song structure. Interested members may consider joining our Educational Committee to help plan our Blues In The Schools (BITS) programs.

Prairie Crossroads Blues Society is also proud to submit Hurricane Ruth's CD, "The Power of The Blues... Feels Like a Hurricane" as our affiliate entry in the Blues Foundation's 2013 Best-Self Produced CD competition. It was released in January of 2011 just as Hurricane Ruth and the band arrived in Memphis to compete as the PCBS representative in the 2012 IBC. The competition is open to CD's released between November 1, 2011 and October 31, 2012.

We're real excited about all the great things we are planning. We can always use some additional ideas and energy. Come out to one of our meetings or send us an email with your suggestions. Our next meeting and social hour is planned for 6:00pm Thursday November 8<sup>th</sup> at Dublin O'Neil's 301 North Neil Street in Champaign. Come out, grab a bite to eat and meet some of your fellow members.

### **Giving Thanks: One Note at a Time** **By Rich Cibelli**

As the weather outside turns cooler and the holiday season nears closer I'll take a minute to give thanks to one and all. For you musicians reading these words, think of playing the notes in a blues scale from first note till last.

I'll begin by thanking the members of The Prairie Crossroads Blues Society. For it is you who devotes your time and energy to this organization and ensures that it continues to grow and prosper.

In particular, I want to thank Bob Paleczny, Lorri Coey, Greg Altstetter, Sandy Hannum and my wife, Sherry Cibelli, for stepping up and agreeing to take on more responsibility within the organization when we needed it the most.

Nevertheless, there is work left to be done as we go forward. For example, there will be times when both you I will be called upon to volunteer at one of our events. I'm confident you'll do your best to try and help out. That being said, I understand this time of the year requires a lot of your time. Time spent with our family, friends and co-workers just to name (Continued on next page)

a few. Unfortunately, there are many in our community who will not experience such joy. So I ask you to remember the less fortunate who may not have a home, a good meal or a family to spend the holidays with. You might consider helping out at our local shelters or food kitchens this year.

I'm thankful to all the great musicians I've had the opportunity to listen and learn from and places I've visited over the years. For they inspire me and teach me about the different lives we all live and why we do the things we do.

Moreover, I'm thankful each month I can reach out to you the readers of *Inclusive* and share something with you that you may not have heard of before. That being said, I don't expect you to agree with

everything I write, so I often ask for you to respond or send in your thoughts and ideas.

But more than just words, I'm thankful that we create a newsletter that gives you insight into our local blues scene. We've published an edition every month for over two years now and I'm confident our staff will continue to climb this path with flying colors.

I could go on, but I think you get the picture that I'm very thankful for all opportunities that have been given to me. So until next month I'll bid you a fond farewell and hope that we get to visit again soon. I thank you for your time and wish you the best this holiday season!

**DID YOU KNOW** that every time you attend a Prairie Crossroads Blues Society meeting you have a chance to win the **blues CD giveaway** of the day!

**It may be time to renew your** membership in the PCBS! Check the date on your membership card. You can renew online using PayPal.

### **Corporate Sponsorships**

We greatly appreciate our Corporate Sponsors for supporting the PCBS with their funds and their missions.

**Memphis on Main** regularly brings impressive Blues talent to Champaign.

**Fluid Events** brings the Champaign Blues, Brews, and BBQs festival to town this summer, along with other Blues music events throughout the year.

**Krannert Center for the Performing Arts** supports our Blues in the Schools program with both funding and expertise.

**The Pawn Shop** in Rantoul has long been a supporter of live blues shows in central Illinois.

**Skins-N-Tins Drum Shop** provided a drum set for use in The Prairie Crossroads Blues Society IBC challenge.

## Donors

We are grateful to the following individuals and businesses that have provided donations to support the work of the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society.

**Cody Sokolski and Marci Dodds**  
**One Main Development, LLC**  
**Samuel Music**  
**Slumberland Furniture**  
**SuperValu**

## Band Memberships

**Alex Jenkins & The Bombers** will be playing at the High St. Bar & Grill in Wingate, IN on December 15, and at Blue Monday @ The Alamo in Springfield on January 28.

**Black Magic Johnson** will be playing this month at The Trading Post in Springfield on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, at Kuhl Tyme Korner in Jacksonville on the 10<sup>th</sup>, at the Hill Prairie Winery in Oakford on the 11<sup>th</sup>, at the Capital City Bar & Grill in Springfield on the 16<sup>th</sup>, at Floyd's Thirst Parlor in Springfield on the 17<sup>th</sup>, and at the Illini Country Club in Springfield on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**The Diva and The Dude** will be playing this month at Black Rock Pizza in Urbana on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup>, at the Clark Bar in Champaign on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>, at the Pink House in Ogden on the 9<sup>th</sup>, at Bunny's Tavern in Urbana on the 10<sup>th</sup>, at Lu & Denny's in Tolono on the 17<sup>th</sup>, at Rte 45 Wayside in Pesotum on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and at Memphis on Main in Champaign on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Full Throttle Band** is one of our newer member bands. Check them out on Facebook.

**Hurricane Ruth** will be playing this month at Crow's Mill Pub in Springfield on the 9<sup>th</sup>, and at Boondocks in Springfield on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

**The James Jones Trio** is a new band and a new member of PCBS. They were the runner-up in our IBC Challenge! We are happy to have them with us.

**Jr. & The Blues Rockers** is one of our newer member bands. They plan to have a website soon.

**The Kilborn Alley Blues Band** will be playing this month at Rosa's Lounge in Chicago on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, at D. R. Digger's in Champaign on the 7<sup>th</sup>, and at Memphis on Main in Champaign on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Matthew Curry & The Fury** will be playing this month at The Castle Theatre in Bloomington on the 8<sup>th</sup>, and at Bobby McGee's in Chicago Ridge on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**The Painkillers** will be playing this month at the Iron Post in Urbana on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**The Sugar Prophets** is one of our long-standing member bands. Check out their website and buy their CD "The Sugar Prophets" on Just One Teaspoon Records.

**Susan Williams Band** will be playing this month at Huber's in Champaign on the 10<sup>th</sup>, at the VFW Post 630 in Urbana on the 17<sup>th</sup>, and at Jim & Jo's Bar and Grill in Danville on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Timmy D & Blind Justice** will be playing at Gino's in Danville on December 1.

**Tombstone Bullet** will be playing this month at the Walnut St. Winery in Rochester on the 10<sup>th</sup>, and at the Corner Pub in Springfield on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

## Prairie Crossroads Board of Directors

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Interim President      | Bob Paleczny    |
| Interim Vice President | Greg Altstetter |
| Interim Treasurer      | Sherry Cibelli  |
| Interim Secretary      | Lorri Coey      |
| At-large Members       | Rich Cibelli    |
|                        | Sandy Hannum    |
|                        | Tony Odendahl   |

## PCBS Business

The next Prairie Crossroads Blues Society Meeting is scheduled for 6:00 pm on Thursday, November 8 at Dublin O'Neil's, 301 N. Neil St., Champaign. Join us for a short meeting, then stick around and enjoy some food and drinks together.

*Inclusive*, a newsletter of the PCBS, is always looking for new contributors and submissions of finished or unfinished content. Deadline for the next newsletter is November 25. Please submit articles, ideas, or comments to [smhannum@gmail.com](mailto:smhannum@gmail.com).

## Inclusive Staff

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Writers for This Issue: Rich Cibelli  
Sandy Hannum  
Bob Paleczny  
Tech Consultant: Bob Paleczny and BP  
Computers  
Mojo Tech: Sherry Cibelli

## Mt. Bluesmore



Hey, Muddy. PCBS really puts on a good IBC Challenge!

You got that right, Walter. It's great to hear new bands you never of, and get blown away.

Yeah! It's also good to hear guys you've known for years, and see them playing in great new combos.

Yup, and hearing it in one big party -- that beats all!

## EVENTS

**Nov 2** – C-U Folk & Roots Festival – Downtown Urbana – 4 pm  
The Diva & The Dude – Black Rock Pizza – Urbana – 6 pm  
Kilborn Alley Blues Band – Rosa's Lounge – Chicago – 8:30 pm  
Candy Foster & The Shades of Blue – Memphis on Main – Champaign – 9 pm  
**Nov 3** – C-U Folk & Roots Festival – Downtown Urbana – 10 am  
The Diva & The Dude (The Dude's birthday) – The Clark Bar – Champaign – 6:30 pm  
Black Magic Johnson – The Trading Post – Springfield, IL – 9 pm  
**Nov 4** – First Sundays at Emerald City – blues dancing with bluesCENTRAL – Emerald City Lounge – Champaign – 6 pm  
**Nov 5** – Studebaker John – Blue Monday @ The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8 pm  
**Nov 7** – John Primer – Goodfella's – Pekin, IL – 7 pm  
Kilborn Alley Blues Band – D.R. Digger's – Juke Joint Show – Champaign – 9 pm  
**Nov 8** – bluesCENTRAL – blues dance lessons – Channing-Murray Foundation – Urbana – 6 pm  
Matthew Curry & The Fury – The Castle Theatre – Bloomington, IL – 7 pm  
**Nov 9** – The Diva & The Dude – The Pink House – Ogden, IL – 5 pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> Friday blues dance w/bluesCENTRAL - Channing-Murray Foundation – Urbana – 8 pm  
Big Creek Guitar Band – Huber's – Champaign – 8 pm  
Hurricane Ruth – Crow's Mill Pub – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm  
Kilborn Alley Blues Band – Memphis on Main – Champaign – 9 pm  
**Nov 10** – The Painkillers – The Iron Post – Urbana – 6 pm  
Tombstone Bullet – Walnut St. Winery – Rochester, IL – 7 pm  
The Diva & The Dude – Bunny's Tavern – Urbana – 8 pm  
Susan Williams Band – Huber's – Champaign – 8 pm  
Black Magic Johnson – Kuhl Tyme Korner – Jacksonville, IL – 9 pm  
The Blues Deacons – The Trading Post – Springfield, IL – 9 pm

**Nov 11** – Black Magic Johnson – Hill Prairie Winery – Oakford, IL – 2 pm  
**Nov 12** – The Blues Deacons – Blue Monday at the Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm  
**Nov 15** – bluesCENTRAL – blues dance lessons – Channing-Murray Foundation – Urbana – 6 pm  
The Diva & The Dude – The Clark Bar – Champaign – 6:30 pm  
Matthew Curry & The Fury – Bobby McGee’s – Chicago Ridge, IL – 8 pm  
**Nov 16** – The Diva & The Dude – Black Rock Pizza – Urbana – 6 pm  
James Armstrong – Buddy Guy’s – Chicago – 9 pm  
Black Magic Johnson and Wayne Baker Brooks – Capital City Bar & Grill – Springfield, IL – 9 pm  
**Nov 17** – Susan Williams Band – VFW Post 630 – Urbana – 7 pm  
Tombstone Bullet – The Corner Pub – Springfield, IL – 7 pm  
Paul Thorn – The Highdive – Champaign – 7:30 pm  
The Diva & The Dude – Lu & Denny’s – Tolono, IL – 8 pm  
The Blues Deacons – Rambo’s Pub & Grub – Argenta, IL – 8:30 pm  
Black Magic Johnson – Floyd’s Thirst Parlor – Springfield, IL – 9 pm  
**Nov 19** – Harper – Blue Monday @ The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8 pm  
**Nov 21** – The Diva & The Dude – The Clark Bar – Champaign – 6:30 pm  
**Nov 23** – The Diva & The Dude – Rte 45 Wayside – Pesotum, IL – 6 pm  
The Blues Deacons – BJ’s Pump – Hoopeston, IL – 9 pm  
**Nov 24** – The Diva & The Dude – Memphis on Main – Champaign – 7 pm  
Hurricane Ruth – Boondocks – Springfield, IL – 8 pm  
**Nov 29** – Black Magic Johnson – Illini Country Club – Springfield, IL – 6 pm  
**Nov 30** – The Diva & The Dude – The Clark Bar – Champaign – 6:30 pm  
Susan Williams Band – Jim & Jo’s Bar and Grill – Danville, IL – 8 pm  
James Armstrong – Memphis on Main – Champaign – 9 pm

**Dec 1** – Ronnie Baker Brooks - The Castle Theatre – Bloomington, IL – 7 pm  
Timmy D. & Blind Justice – Gino’s – Danville, IL – 8 pm  
**Dec 2** – First Sundays at Emerald City – blues dancing with bluesCENTRAL – Emerald City Lounge – Champaign – 6 pm  
**Dec 3** – Andrew Jr. Boy Jones – Blue Monday @ The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8 pm  
**Dec 5** – Kilborn Alley Blues Band – D.R. Digger’s – Juke Joint Show – Champaign – 9 pm  
**Dec 8** – The Painkillers – The Iron Post – Urbana – 6 pm  
Susan Williams Band – Huber’s – Champaign – 8 pm  
**Dec 10** – Hurricane Ruth – Blue Monday at the Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8 pm  
**Dec 14** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday blues dance w/bluesCENTRAL - Channing-Murray Foundation – Urbana – 8 pm  
Big Creek Guitar Band – Huber’s – Champaign – 8 pm  
**Dec 15** – Alex Jenkins & The Bombers – High St. Bar & Grill – Wingate, IN – 9 pm  
**Dec 17** – R.J. Mischo – Blue Monday @ The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8 pm  
**Dec 21** – Timmy D. & Blind Justice – Cowboy Monkey – Champaign – 9 pm  
Johnny Rawls – Champaign (venue TBA) – 9 pm  
**Dec 28** – Black Magic Johnson – Walnut St. Winery – Rochester, IL – 7 pm  
Susan Williams Band – Jim & Jo’s Bar and Grill – Danville, IL – 8 pm  
**Dec 31** – Timmy D. & Blind Justice – The Iron Post – Urbana – 9:30 pm

**Jan 2** – Kilborn Alley Blues Band – D.R. Digger’s – Juke Joint Show – Champaign – 9 pm  
**Jan 11** – Black Magic Johnson – Long Bridge Golf Course – Springfield, IL – 6 pm  
Timmy D. & Blind Justice – The Old Orchard Inn – Effingham, IL – 9 pm  
**Jan 12** – The Painkillers – The Iron Post – Urbana – 6 pm  
**Jan 19** – Hurricane Ruth – Crow’s Mill Pub – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm  
**Jan 28** – Alex Jenkins & The Bombers – Blue Monday @ The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm